

THE MINNEAPOLIS CLINIC

OF

PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY

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April 24, 1970

Dear Harold:

Received your mailings postmarked april 18, 21, and 22.

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Mary may need cheering up, but she also needs some advice if all her son is taking is vitamins. I suspect that he is being treated by one of those quacks using megavitamins--probably niacine. We are having problems with some of them up here. The guy who started it all is very likely a paranoid schizophrenic and way off the map, and the good research just doesn't support his claims. But, more important, the literature contains cases where it seems to have led to suicide. (i.e. it seemed to work at first due to the placebo effect, but when the placebo effect wore off the patient was overwhelmed with despair and committed suicide.

Agreed that Chris makes a good point on page 4 of his letter, but it is pretty unimportant given that it is just another example of how incompetent the autopsy surgeons were, and that we can already prove a 1,000 times over. As you guessed, I have not yet had time to write him but will soon and forward both your letters.

There are exciting protests going here but I have no time for them...big confrontations with General Electric and Honeywell which were quite well planned and very constructive in nature. Invasions of stockholder's meetings by either buying stock or acting as a proxy is a great idea.

I played a little tennis today and hope to get out some more. I am in bad physical shape (never really recovered from all the inactivity following my beating in the park) and would really like to try to play tennis again. My timing is way off due to the depth perception problems and I'll never be able to compete in tournaments again, but I do hope to get to the stage where it can be fun again.

Your letter of 4/20 to Mary was a very warm and moving one although my letter to her was of a sometimes opposite stance. I reinforced the idea of contact with his peers and also challenged the "wisdom" of their therapists, but I also indicated a need for care, caution, and better help. I have seen too many similar cases end in suicide.

Your suggestions in your letter of 4/20 in regard to Lifton and Nichols are possible, but I doubt if we'll ever know. I have considered it, but have absolutely no evidence in either direction.

Brain scan is an X-ray photo taken of the brain once dye has been ingested. It is a way to map the circulatory pathways in the brain. If he made mention of a test which

posed hazards, I suspect that it would be a pneumoencephalogram. In order to do one they drain the cerebrospinal fluid. Brain scan is a simpler and more routine test, and I doubt if any more than that plus the EEG and neurological is indicated. (neurological exam that is) Your approach to the medication is a good one. Stay off it if you can, but use it when you feel the need. There is no reason not to. I have a patient who I seem to be helping a great deal, but who became depressed recently due to the breakup of a relationship and some other things which happened and I got her on an anti-depressant for a while.

I am looking forward to the Newman book because it will undoubtedly add more fuel to my fire and more evidence for the point I hope to make about all the rotten things done in the name of psychology and psychiatry for this case. Agreed on Russell. Also agreed that the environment thing is serving to divert people. On YES, pregnancies still a problem, but we have a setup to get psychiatrist's letters for therapeutic abortions and to send them to a safe hospital setup in Mexico for an abortion if the psychiatrists can't supply a letter.

One guy on my committee is cracking up fast and we are trying to get him to go for help. I can't do much since he might think me an agent or something, although at present I am one of the few he trusts. He has periodically decided that one of my prize pupils is an agent.

From Your 4/22 to Howard I can see some problems developing (same with yours of 4/21). Nichols behavior is becoming more and more unusual and suspicious and I agree with your letters to Howard and Dick for that reason. We are at the point where things are just getting a bit too strange in that quarter and where Nichols has not availed himself of the opportunity he has had to explain things. Whether he is strange or up to something does not matter now, because he clearly has the potential to harm. I do not think you are being unfair and also can share your feelings somewhat, although naturally I can not feel them as sharply because I am somewhat removed from the situation. I hope that Howard and Dick respond favorably on the Nichols thing.

Enclosed is some racist literature for you from the NSRP.

Just found another mailing from you of the 20th. Time's covering of Skolnick is, I suppose, par for the course. As you know, Time is the publication I hate the most, and I can't even bear to see it let alone read it. Someone told me about the mention of Skolnick. I haven't read the volumes of letters I have gotten from Chris, but judging from your letter of 4-18 to him, it will be distasteful. I agree, even without reading, on the similarity to Epstein. Odio-Liebeler memo most interesting. There is so much of that stuff, like the executive sessions and all the memos, that it is staggering to think what a full analysis of it would require. It would be fascinating though to do what Epstein supposedly did and study the genesis of the report.

Well, I'd better go now. Pretty busy. Haven't gotten an answer yet from Mary...am very worried about Jimmy being on only vitamins..hope nothing has happened and that she believes me. Best wishes to you and Lil. Hope the enclosed check helps some. Stay well.

Gary